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were alike consulted; and the result has been a brilliant success.

In aiming at their charitable object, the committees of these Festivals have incidentally done the district a service, the extent of which could not at first have been foreseen. By these triennial meetings, they have kept alive the careful study of sacred music, at once the noblest of all music, and the sublimest of all sciences, amongst the musicians themselves; and they have created and nurtured a musical taste amongst the inhabitants of the district. As an added pleasure, music is the purest that could have been presented to them; but it has a higher value. It is a potent educator of mankind, refining the taste, accustoming the perceptions to discover the beautiful, delighting the imagination with ceaseless variety, working only upon the nobler feelings, and approving itself to the soundest judgment, by the clearness of its principles and the nice adaptation of means and end.

Looking at the subject in a merely artistic point of view, the Festivals have been of great value. But for them, our noblest sacred music would hardly have been known even by name to the reading public, while such a class as the present non-professional musical public would not have existed.

As the most ancient of existing Festivals, that of the Three Choirs stands foremost in the list of civilising agencies: in some respects, however, we regret to find that it stands alone. It is, at the present moment, the only Festival where English music forms the main item. At other Festivals it would seem that nothing home-produced is accounted good enough. We are glad to find that Mr. G. Townshend Smith, organist of the Cathedral, has struck the true mean, neither excluding nor accepting foreign music or novelties of the day simply as such, but drawing mainly from the great storehouse of English and other classical music. In this respect the example deserves general imitation, while the decision has received the approval of all unprejudiced persons. The selection of music was this time emphatically a good one—good in variety, in intrinsic merit and in appropriateness; and the success of its execution has been triumphant.

We may, as an appropriate pendant, put on record a complete list of the names of the performers whose admirable skill and care have made both morning and evening performances pass off with such brilliant effect as a whole:—

PRINCIPAL VOCAL PERFORMERS.

Madame Grisi, Madame Clara Novello, Madame Weiss, Miss Moss, Miss Dolby, Mr. Sims Reeves, Signor Mario, Mr. Montem Smith, Mr. H. Barnby, Mr. W. H. Weiss.

PRINCIPAL INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMERS.

Solo Pianoforte: Master Arthur Napoleon.
Solo Concertina: Mr. R. Blagrove.
Solo Violin and Leader: Mr. H. Blagrove.
Violins: Messrs. Willy (principal second), W. Blagrove, J. Calkin, E. T. Chipp, Clementi, Cusins, Dando, Hill, E. S. Jones, J. Jones, Levason, A. Mellon, N. Mori, Pritchard, Ribbon, Seymour, Streather, Watson, Zerbini.
Violas: Messrs. H. Hill (principal), Bailey, R. Blagrove, Glanville, Trust, Weslake.
Violoncellos: Messrs. Lucas (principal), Phillips (second), Calkin, H. Chipp, Reed.
Double Basses: Messrs. Howell (principal), Flower (second), Edgar, Reynolds, Severn.
Flutes: Messrs. Pratten, E. Card.
Oboes: Messrs. Nicholson, Malsch.
Clarionets: Mr. Williams (principal, mornings), Mr. Lazarus (principal, evenings).
Bassoons: Messrs. Baumann, Godfrey.
Harp: Mr. Trust.
Trumpets: Messrs. T. Harper, Irwin.
Horns: Messrs. C. Harper, Rae, Mann, Standen.
Trombones: Messrs. Hawkes, Horton, Healey.
Serpent: Mr. Andre.

Drums: Mr. Chipp.
Organ: Mr. Amott.
Pianoforte: Mr. Done.
Librarian: Mr. Hedgley.
Conductor: Mr. G. Townshend Smith.

The Choral Band was selected from the three Cathedral Choirs, and Choral Societies of Hereford, Gloucester, Worcester, and Liverpool.—*Hereford Times*.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

This Journal is published on the 1st of every month.

We would request those who send us country newspapers, wishing us to read particular paragraphs, to mark the passage, by cutting a slit in the paper near it.

The late hour at which Advertisements reach us, interferes much with their proper classification.

Colored Envelopes are sent to all Subscribers whose payment in advance is exhausted. The paper will be discontinued where the Subscriber neglects to renew. We again remind those who are disappointed in getting back numbers, that only the music pages are stereotyped, and of the rest of the paper, only sufficient are printed to supply the current sale.

We cannot undertake to return offered contributions; the authors, therefore, will do well to retain copies.

M. I., Leicestershire.—*Respectfully declined.*

C. A. K.—A book called "*Handel's Visit to Dublin*," by Horatio Townshend, contains the most authentic account of what you require.

Brief Chronicle of the last Month.

THE MUSICAL UNION has terminated its eleventh season, and the director has reason to be satisfied with the continued prosperity of the institution. We have received a copy of Meyerbeer's letter to Mr. Ella, after the visit of that illustrious master to one of the *matinées*, and its perusal will afford our readers a just impression of the profound veneration which he entertains for the genius of his musical predecessors, and his appreciation of Mr. Ella's musical labours:—

[TRANSLATION.]

"London, July 9, 1855.

"MY DEAR MR. ELLA,—I thank you with all my heart for the great pleasure you have afforded me in giving me the opportunity of being present at a *séance* of the Musical Union. To hear admirable masterpieces executed in so admirable a manner that the most delicate beauties and the finest niceties are brought out into relief by the talent and the *ensemble* of the executants, this is a keen musical enjoyment. But to me it was quite as keen an enjoyment to remark with what intelligence and with what interest your numerous audience was listening, and to see so many ladies following the music score in hand. The analyses which you give of the works executed at your meetings are written with equal science and fine observation; and they contain excellent criticisms. They must powerfully aid such of the audience as are not professional musicians to note instantly the severer beauties of the *morceaux*, which, without that guide, would probably have escaped them at a first hearing. Let me add, that you deserve to be congratulated upon having created, and upon the direction of so noble an institution, which must have contributed already, and will yet contribute to the general propagation of a taste for the classical music of the immortal masters. Accept the expression of my most distinguished consideration.

"G. MEYERBEER."

HULL SUBSCRIPTION MUSICAL SOCIETY.—The first annual meeting of this society was held on Tuesday night, when the president (H. Frost, Esq.), read a very satisfactory report. It appeared that there are now 168 performing and 86 subscribing members. The treasurer's account showed a balance in favor of the society of £6, with a year's subscriptions just due, and the expenses of the coming year must necessarily be much less than those incurred during the past year.

STAMFORD.—Mr. Thacker, organist of Thorny Abbey, has been elected conductor of the Stamford Musical Union. The first concert of the season will take place in October, and will embrace Romberg's *Harmony of the Spheres*.

BLACKHEATH.—Master G. F. Gardner, eldest son of Mr. Gardner, organist of Lewisham Church, has lately been appointed organist of Dartmouth-place Chapel, Blackheath.

WATTON (Norfolk).—The new organ, in the parish church, erected by Messrs. Noble, was opened on the 27th July, by Mr. Bunnett.

STAFFORDSHIRE POTTERIES.—"Several gentlemen in Hanley are desirous of promoting the establishment of cheap concerts for the people, to take place at short intervals in the Town Hall, or some other suitable place. The Choral Society is disposed to further the object, by rendering the required professional assistance on liberal terms; and all that is wanted is a matured plan, to come into operation in October, and to be continued during the winter. We hope to be able to communicate details at some early period. Rational amusement for the people ought to be provided, and this principle once admitted, music must become a most essential element in such entertainments."—*Staffordshire Sentinel*.

TYNEMOUTH.—The members of the Sacred Harmonic Society and their friends had an excursion to Ryton, by steamer. After breakfasting at Blaydon, the company proceeded by train to Ryton, from thence on to the green (kindly granted by Mr. Weeks), close by the waterside, when a selection of sacred music was performed by the members, and listened to by a very large assembly of people. The execution was tasteful, and every way creditable to any society, more especially to one only a few months old. The instrumentalists, under the leadership of Mr. Henderson, who accompanied the choruses, &c., played with great judgment and taste, particularly in the duet and solo parts. Mr. Wood was director of the choir, and conducted throughout. After tea at Mr. Softly's, the company were treated to a few beautiful selections of music, which were executed by several of the party (the band still accompanying), consisting of songs, duets, glees, &c., with many very fine instrumental pieces. Altogether the day was greatly enjoyed, and the company separated highly gratified with the amusements of the day, and feeling deeply indebted to the Harmonic Society for the very superior entertainment which it had afforded them, to what is usually to be had on such excursions.—*North and South Shields Gazette*.

OLD CHORISTERS.—A very pleasant gathering took place lately, of those who have been educated in, or are at present members of, Collegiate Choirs. The arrangements were somewhat as follow: invitations were sent to those most likely to feel an interest in meeting their old school-fellows (separated as they are, in many instances, by distance or professional avocations), to assemble for a Morning Choral Service in Westminster Abbey, on the 30th of July. The Rev. Lord John Thynne, Sub-dean, kindly granted the use of the venerable building for the purpose; and Mr. Tule presided at the organ on the occasion. The assemblage were then to proceed to the Crystal Palace, Sydenham, to enjoy a day of relaxation and friendly intercourse. The scheme was carried out by the bringing together of a larger party than might have been expected from the shortness of the notice; and the success was mainly due to the exertions of Mr. Hopkins and Mr. Coward. An annual repetition is proposed.

SCARBRO'.—Two Concerts were given here, in the Town Hall, on the 4th and 6th of August, by Mr. T. H. Harrison. The principal vocalists were Madame Copare, Mr. Rayson, and Mr. Lambert. The concerts were well attended.

HENLEY-ON-THAMES.—The Choral Society presented their Conductor, Mr. E. H. Thorne, with a very handsome clock, "as a slight token of their appreciation of his untiring energy and devotion to the Society's improvement."

THE MOZART INSTITUTION ("Mozarteum") at Salzburg intends to celebrate Mozart's centenary birthday (September 7, 1856) by a musical festival on the largest scale, the conductorship of which will be entrusted to Herr Franz Lachner, of Munich. The Committee, we read in the *Cologne Gazette*, requests all musical authorities, at home and abroad, to assist at the festival, and to announce, their intention of doing so before the end of May, 1856, to the Committee of the "Mozarteum." Special invitations, it is said, will not be sent out.—*Athenæum*.

MONS. JULLIEN.—This judicious caterer for the public, has been making a very extended tour in the Provinces, in Scotland, and in Ireland, with his usual marked success.

LIVERPOOL.—Mr. W. T. Best has been appointed organist of St. George's Hall, and a better appointment, we think, could not have been made. The salary has been fixed at £300 per annum.

TRANSMISSION OF NEWSPAPERS TO BRITISH COLONIES AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES.—Henceforth it will not be necessary that newspapers sent abroad, whether to the British colonies or to foreign countries, should bear the impressed stamp (the old newspaper stamp); but, as at present, a postage of one penny must be pre-paid (either by means of a postage label or in money), on every newspaper sent to a British colony, with additional postage according to prescribed rate, when the newspaper passes through a foreign country. The postage on newspapers to foreign countries remains the same. In the transmission of newspapers abroad (whether to the colonies or foreign countries), the use of the impressed stamp will entirely cease; it will neither be required, nor will it count as postage.

In consequence of this liberal arrangement by the government, no more copies of *The Musical Times* will be printed on stamped paper; and we thus intend to relieve the Post Office of the useless complication arising therefrom. *The Musical Times* can be sent by post (like all other newspapers), by affixing a penny postage-stamp.

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